



Amtrak California
A partnership of Caltrans and Amtrak®

making tracks

Vol.17, No. 1 Spring 2007

LA Union Station FlyAway Celebrates First Anniversary

Just one year ago FlyAway Bus service was inaugurated between Los Angeles Union Station and Los Angeles International Airport. Amtrak and Metrolink passengers can ride non-stop between the station and airport in about 45 minutes. Initial estimates anticipated carrying 100,000 passengers during the first year of service. Los Angeles World Airports, operator of the bus service, expects to carry 250,000 passengers by March 15, the official first anniversary date. Buses operate from Berth 9 in Patsaouras Transit Plaza every 30 minutes from 5 AM to 1 AM, and hourly from 1 AM to 5 AM. One-way fare is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. FlyAway has its own ticket and baggage clerks to assist airport bound passengers at Union Station.

Amtrak California Website Gets New Look

California Department of Transportation Division of Rail has introduced a new and redesigned website that gives Amtrak California passengers an easier way of adding the train into their travel plans. The website, www.amtrakcalifornia.com,

provides service information on Amtrak's three major passenger trains in California: the San Joaquins, Pacific Surfliner and Capitol Corridor.

The new website provides a full description of service routes, an interactive route map of each line, and a station locator in which consumers can type in their zip code and instantly be provided with the stations in their area.

Useful information about each train line, including

continued on page 3

In This Issue

Page 2

New Santa Ana
Pedestrian Bridge

San Joaquin Rail Plan

Page 3

Yosemite Service Via
Merced Restored

Two Advertising
Awards

Visit San Diego

Page 4

Grover Beach Station
10th Anniversary

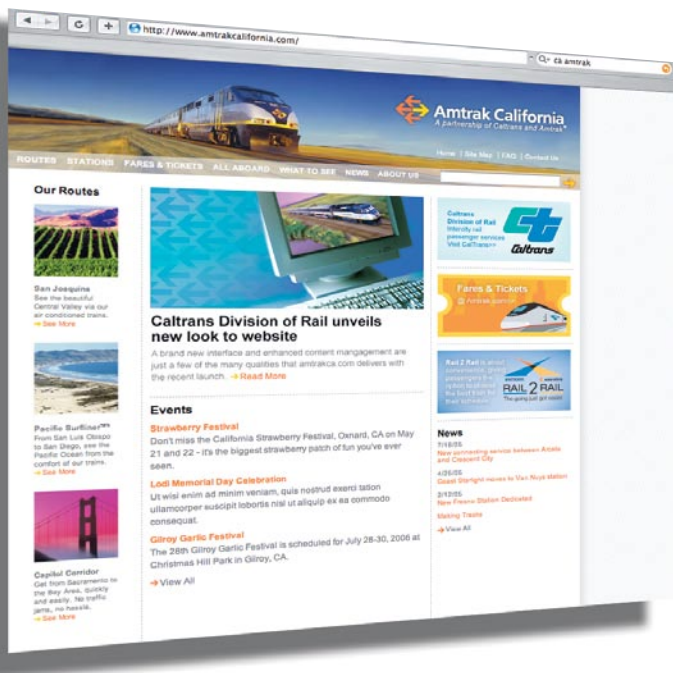
Page 5

Visit San Francisco

Page 6

San Joaquin Corridor
Improvements

Fresno Depot Receives
Award



FlyAway Bus

Two Advertising Awards

Amtrak received two advertising awards from the California Travel and Tourism Commission. The awards were presented at CalTIA's annual California Conference on Tourism in Anaheim.

The Travel Made Simple television commercial, which aired in Fall 2005 and Spring 2006, won "Best TV Advertising." And, a second place award was won in the Best Newspaper Ad Campaign category for the Pacific Surfliner "Magic" ad that appeared in the USA Today supplement commemorating the 50th anniversary of Disneyland.

Website

continued from page 1

places to visit along each route, frequency of service, and onboard amenities including meals, checked baggage and internet availability is easy to access through the redesigned site. Consumers also can easily access a list of all stations served by Amtrak California trains, with contact information, trains that serve the stations, and local transit connections.

Booking a trip online is easy through the interactive fare finder, which provides quick, secure service, with tickets arriving in the mail shortly after the order is complete. Consumers can also call 1-800-USA-RAIL or buy their ticket at a staffed station.

Amtrak Yosemite Service Via Merced Restored



Amtrak service to Yosemite National Park once again makes connections at Merced. On October 31, Amtrak connecting motorcoach service returned to Highway 140 following a five-month road closure due to a massive rock slide. Immediately following the rock slide in order to continue providing its customers "same day" service to Yosemite, Amtrak passengers boarded Thruway buses in Modesto for the journey into the Park. The alternative route avoided the rock slide area. Construction of two military-style bridges allows Park traffic to again use Highway 140. Amtrak connecting motorcoaches operated by VIA Adventures, Inc. and Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) make stops at the Visitors Center in Mariposa, the Yosemite Bug Hostel in Midpines, Yosemite View Lodge in El Portal, and Yosemite Lodge in Yosemite Park.

Visit San Diego

San Diego offers a variety of things to see and do for visitors of all ages. With its idyllic climate, San Diego's major attraction is its 70 miles of pristine Pacific Ocean coastline and beaches, which support year-round outdoor recreation, including surfing, boating, sailing and swimming. And you can visit the important scientific research center at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. To the east, there are gentle foothills and mile-high mountains to hike and explore.



Popular attractions include San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, Sea World San Diego and LEGOLAND California. The Zoo is located in Balboa Park, where you also will find 15 museums, numerous art galleries, beautiful gardens and The Globe Theatres. Downtown, there are shops to explore and restaurants to enjoy, including the historic Gaslamp Quarter and Little Italy. A number of special events, festivals and celebrations are held in San Diego throughout the year.

The easiest way to reach San Diego is aboard an Amtrak California Pacific Surfliner train. There are 11 daily trains (and 12 on Fridays and weekends) traveling to and from San Diego. All serve Orange County and Los Angeles, with some traveling through the San Fernando Valley to Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

Grover Beach Amtrak Station Celebrates 10TH Anniversary

To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Grover Beach Amtrak Station, residents of Grover Beach and nearby communities visited the station for special ceremonies that included live music, entertainment, light refreshments and remarks by local and state dignitaries.



An enthusiastic local crowd attended the Grover Beach Amtrak station tenth anniversary event. Photo: Caltrans - Ed Andersen.

Grover Beach Station, designed in California Mission Revival style with graceful arches and a red tile roof, welcomes four daily Pacific Surfliner trains, two southbound to Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego, and two northbound. In addition, five Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches (two southbound and three northbound) connect Grover Beach passengers with Pacific Surfliner trains in Santa Barbara to continue their trip.

Located at South Highway One and Grand Avenue, the Station is a convenient two-block walk to the public beach. Mile-long Grover Beach is part of Pismo State Beach and Recreation Area and the beautiful Nipomo Dunes state preserve, home to many species of plants and animals. Enjoy dune hiking, fishing, clamming, sailing, golfing and horseback riding year-round. And if you make your visit to Grover Beach between November and January, look for the regal monarch butterflies that make their winter home in a specially maintained grove of eucalyptus trees.

Santa Barbara Celebrates 100 Years

In December 1906 Santa Barbara inaugurated its new train station with daily Southern Pacific passenger service to and from Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area. A noted local architect, Francis W. Wilson, designed the handsome mission-style station. A century later state and local officials gathered at the restored station to celebrate 100 years of train service and inclusion of the station on the National Register of Historic Places. The station was restored to its former glory in 1999 in a joint \$8.4 million project funded by Caltrans and City of Santa Barbara.

The Santa Barbara Railroad Station has won numerous awards including the 2000 California Redevelopment Association Special Citation and the 2001 Governor's Historic Preservation Award.



Working On The Railroad: San Joaquin Corridor Improvements

In late January and early February, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway undertook a major programmed maintenance project on mainline track between Fresno and Bakersfield. The project involved replacing 73,000 ties that support the actual rails and then resurfacing the track to maintain smooth riding qualities. This is an activity that must be undertaken periodically on all major rail lines to maintain the quality of the track, much as seal coats and pavement overlays are applied periodically to highways. Two track crews - one starting at each end of the project - worked one shift a day, Sunday through Thursdays, from January 17th until February 15th.

The project required adjustments to the operation of some Amtrak San Joaquin passenger trains on the route during the Sunday through Thursday construction period. Amtrak and Caltrans continued to provide service for its San Joaquin Valley passengers by using a fleet of dedicated Thruway Motorcoaches to fill in for trains affected by the construction.

Fresno Depot Receives Governor's Award

The recently renovated Santa Fe Depot in Fresno has been chosen to receive the coveted Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2006. For the past twenty years the State Office of Historic Preservation has presented these awards to recognize local grass roots efforts for historic preservation. The official awards ceremony took place on November 16, 2006 at the Leland Stanford Mansion in Sacramento.

Rededicated in February 2005, the Fresno Santa Fe Depot was returned to service as the city's Amtrak station, welcoming over 200,000 passengers each year. The six million dollar depot restoration project was funded by Caltrans and other local funding sources. The project brought the Santa Fe Depot back to its 1899 appearance, just as it was when it welcomed its first passengers. It is one of the few mission style buildings - with arches and tiled roofs - constructed prior to 1900 still in existence today. The depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



State of California
Arnold Schwarzenegger,
Governor

Business, Transportation &
Housing Agency
Dale E. Bonner, Secretary

Department of
Transportation
Will Kempton, Director

making tracks

Marketing, Caltrans Rail Division, MS-74
Box 942874, Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

New Safety Pedestrian Bridge Dedicated at Santa Ana Station

On November 7, State and local officials joined together to dedicate the latest passenger safety feature along the busy Los Angeles-San Diego rail corridor. A new passenger bridge at Santa Ana Depot allows Amtrak and Metrolink passengers safe access to a new second station platform by providing a covered overhead walkway

above two busy mainline tracks. Twenty-two daily Amtrak trains between Los Angeles and San Diego serve the Depot at Santa Ana. Thirty-one weekday Metrolink commuter trains visit the station on Metrolink's Orange County Line between Los Angeles and Oceanside.

Patrick Merrill, Chief of Rail Capital Projects, Operations and Marketing for Caltrans Division of Rail spoke at completion ceremonies of the new passenger bridge. "The State Department of Transportation takes seriously its mandate to operate a safe and efficient transportation system," he said. "The Santa Ana Depot pedestrian bridge is one example of how we are addressing passenger safety issues on the busy LOSSAN Corridor. Our partnership with Orange County Transportation Authority and Metrolink has resulted in improvements for all travelers who use trains on this busy rail corridor."



With its graceful design elements reflecting those of the original station, the Santa Ana Pedestrian Bridge makes a dramatic statement as Pacific Surfliner trains arrive and depart each day.
Photo: Caltrans - Jon Hirtz.

Strategic Business Plan For San Joaquin Rail Corridor

According to California Department of Finance, the Central Valley's population will grow from 3.5 million to 7.5 million by 2040. This growth will have a profound impact on mobility. In order to better address the impacts of such unprecedented growth, a series of workshops will be held during which the public is invited to share their views on a Strategic Business Plan being developed for the San Joaquin Rail Corridor. The San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee and Caltrans Division of Rail are sponsoring the workshops.

When completed the Strategic Business Plan will chart the course for future development of the San Joaquin rail corridor, based on goals and priorities set during the planning process. Goals for the corridor include improved on-time train performance, more round trips, improved safety and mobility, better schedules and more destinations. Other issues will be identified through local community input.



Visit San Francisco

Whether it is for a day-trip or longer stay, the best way to get to San Francisco is on the train. Amtrak California's San Joaquin makes four convenient daily roundtrips from the Valley to the Bay Area. The train takes you to Emeryville, where an Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach will be standing by for the quick trip across the bridge to San Francisco.

The Motorcoach stops at the historic Ferry Building, at Embarcadero and the foot of Market Street. Recently remodeled, the Ferry Building includes retail shops, restaurants and a weekly farmer's market. If Fisherman's Wharf is your destination, stay on the Motorcoach and be taken directly to Pier 39. Other Amtrak stops include Moscone Center, the newly remodeled Westfield San Francisco Center, the Financial District, and the Caltrain Station.



Most visitors to San Francisco include Fisherman's Wharf in their itinerary, which offers waterfront marketplaces including Pier 39, The Anchorage, The Cannery, and Ghirardelli Square. Historic ships are berthed at Pier 45 and the Hyde Street Pier, open for public viewing.



From the Wharf, a walk up Columbus Avenue brings you to North Beach, rich in Italian heritage. There you will find family style restaurants, gelato parlors, galleries, cabarets and jazz clubs. Visit Washington Square Park and see the Benjamin Franklin statue in the park donated to the city in 1879. North Beach Museum is at 1435 Stockton Street, and includes a collection of vintage photographs tracing the neighborhood's early days.

A few blocks from Washington Square is Grant Avenue, the oldest street in San Francisco and the main street of Chinatown. You'll find exotic shops, restaurants, food markets, temples, small museums and herb shops. The Chinese Historical Society, 965 Clay Street, contains artifacts tracing the history of Chinese immigration, and The Chinese Culture Center, 750 Kearny Street, includes exhibits of Chinese arts and crafts.



Top Left: Washington Square Park
Left: San Francisco Trolley Car
Right: Golden Gate Bridge